(b) if so, the details thereof and since how long this practice has been continuing and by which NGOs; and

(c) to what extent the interests of the tribals are safeguarded from the activities of such NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, an association, including any association operating in the North Eastern States, having a definite cultural, economic, educational, religious or social programme can accept foreign contribution after it registers itself with the Central Government or obtains its prior permission to accept foreign contribution. An organisation of a political nature, not being a political party, notified as such by the Central Government, cannot accept foreign contribution except with the prior permission of the Central Government.

(c) The said Act empowers the Central Government to take action against an association found contravening any provision of the Act including acceptance of foreign contribution without registration or prior permission, or not properly utilising it for the stated purposes and objectives. The action includes placing the association in the prior permission category, prohibiting it from receiving foreign contribution, freezing its bank account and prosecuting it in a court of law.

Sarkaria Commission Report

408. SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sarkaria Commission in their report recommended devolution of more financial and administrative powers to the States; and

(b) if so, what suitable steps Government would take to ensure harmonious Centre-State relations and more financial and administrative powers to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The report of the Sarkaria Commission covers issues which have a direct bearing on Centre-State relations in financial, legislative and administrative spheres. Out of 247 recommendations made by the Commission, the Inter-State Council has taken decision on 171 recommendations. These have been sent to the different Ministries for implementation.

2. In Chapter on "Administrative Relations", the Sarkaria Commission has made two recommendations. One of the these recommendations relating to progressive decentralisation of powers to the Governments of the States has been endorsed by the Inter-State Council. The other recommendation relating to power of the Union to give directions under article 256 and 257 and application of sanction under article 365 has been remitted to a Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Union Defence Minister for further examination and appropriate recommendations.

3. On 'Financial Relations' the Sarkaria Commission has made 44 recommendations which relate to sharing of taxes between Centre and States, tax reforms, functioning of the Finance Commission, Central assistance to States, management of ways and means position, etc. All these recommendations have been considered by the Inter-State Council and final view taken. These recommendations have been forwarded to the administrative Ministries concerned for implementation.

4. On "Economic and Social Planning' the Sarkaria Commission has made 33 recommendations. These recommendations were considered by the Inter-State Council in its fifth meeting held on 22.1.99 and it was decided to refer them to the Planning Commission for placing before the National Development Council in its next meeting.

5. With the passage of the 89th Constitution (Amendment) Bill in the Parliament, it has been decided that the States' share in the Central taxes will now be 29% with effect from 1.4.96.

Statehood for Telangana

409. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would create Telangana State on the lines of Uttaranchal and Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether it is a fact that it is the most backward region in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) what steps Government would take to bring Telangana people at par with other developed regions?